

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINAI 01397 150249Z
ACTION SSM-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 1397

FOR SSM FOR KONTOS ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, EG, IS

SUBJECT: UN INSPECTION OF LFZ

REF: STATE 163406; SINAI 1335

1. MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR FINDING SINAI 1335 A USEFUL REPORT AND UNDERSTAND GROUNDS FOR PROPOSING ITS BROADER DISTRIBUTION. WOULD SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT A WASHINGTON SUMMARY WITH INFORMAL BRIEFINGS AT EMBASSIES TEL AVIV AND CAIRO DURING MY VISITS THERE WOULD SERVE INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES WITHOUT AS MUCH RISK OF LEAKAGE TO UN OFFICIALS AS COULD RESULT FROM CABLE.

2. AS REPORTED SINAI 1380, I HAVE TALKED TO GENERAL SIILASVUO ABOUT THE SFM BRIEFING GIVEN THE AUSTRALIAN, FINNISH AND SWEDISH AMBASSADORS. HE WAS SENSITIVE TO ANY CRITICISM, IMPLIED OR DIRECT, OF UN OPERATIONS. WHILE SINAI 1335 WAS INTENDED BE A CONSTRUCTIVE CRITIQUE, IT COULD EASILY BE MISPARAPHRASED AND MISUNDERSTOOD BY UN.

3. I HAVE ASSURED GENERAL SIILASVUO OF MY INTENTION WORK CLOSELY WITH HIM AND TO AVOID EVALUATORY DISCUSSION OF UN AFFAIRS WITH OUTSIDERS. IF PARTS OF SINAI 1335 WERE TO LEAK OUT NOW, IT WOULD
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SERIOUSLY UNDERCUT THE ASSURANCES I HAVE GIVEN HIM AND MAKE FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS DIFFICULT INDEED.

4. I HAVE TALKED FURTHER WITH BOTH UNEF FORCE COMMANDER RAIS ABIN AND HIS CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL NIHLIN. BELIEVE I HAVE SATISFACTORILY ASSURED THEM TOO OF BOTH OUR OPERATIONAL COOPERATION AND CAUTION IN DISCUSSING THEIR AFFAIRS. ANY LEAK NOW CONTRARY

TO THIS UNDERTAKING WOULD JEOPARDIZE MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM AT A VERY FORMATIVE PERIOD.

5. WOULD SUGGEST ALSO THAT TOO MUCH DISTRIBUTION IN WASHINGTON MIGHT SIMILARLY FIND ITS WAY BACK THRU UN CHANNELS. IS THERE NOT AN ALTERNATIVE WAY INFORMATION MIGHT BE DISTRIBUTED, SUCH AS IN AN IO STAFF STUDY OR INR MEMO?

6. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS SECOND PARAGRAPH, WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION ON AMOUNT OF TIME EGYPT REQUIRES TO PROVIDE ESCORTS. UNMO'S HAVE SPOKEN OF AS MUCH AS 12 HOURS FOR A SPECIAL INSPECTION. IDF HAS BEEN TOLD OF 8 HOURS DELAY FOR THIS REASON.

7. UNEF CLEARLY HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR LFZ INVESTIGATION UNDER THE PROTOCOL, BUT THE INSPECTIONS ARE ALL CONDUCTED BY UNMO'S BELONGING TO UNTSO'S OPERATIONAL GROUP SINAI. THE ARRANGEMENT IS COMPLEX. THE UNMO'S ARE SCHEDULED TO WORK AT CHECKPOINTS OR WITH LFZ INSPECTIONS BY OGS/JERUSALEM OR OGS/CAIRO. THE OGS ALSO SUPPORTS THEM ADMINISTRATIVELY. ON THE JOB, THEY ARE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF UNEF HEADQUARTERS ISMAILIA. THEY ARE ALSO, BY CHAIN OF COMMAND, UNDER THE OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE OF THE PARTICULAR UNEF UNIT IN WHOSE AREA THEY ARE SERVING. AN UNMO AT CHECKPOINT BRAVO WOULD CONSULT UNEF HQ ABOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON HANDLING TRAFFIC THERE; IF AN AIR OR GROUND INTRUSION OCCURRED, HE WOULD ACT WITH OR REPORT TO UNEF THROUGH GHANBATT.

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8. SFM WAS RECENTLY PROVIDED FURTHER INFORMATION ON LFZ INSPECTION PROCEDURES. THIS SUGGESTS POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EXACT FIGURES ON NUMBER OF PERSONNEL IN LFZ AND HIGHER GENERAL ESTIMATES CITED BY SENIOR UN STAFF. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 350 INDIVIDUAL EGYPTIAN SITES TO BE VISITED BY INSPECTION TEAMS IN A.R.E. LFZ. IN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, LFZ TEAMS ASK THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT EACH SITE FOR THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL THERE. AT THE TEAM'S DISCRETION, THE UNMO'S ACCEPT THE FIGURE OR VERIFY IT BY A SPOT COUNT. TEAMS ARE EXPECTED TO VERIFY A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF COUNTS. THE OGS THEN COMPILES THREE FIGURES FOR PERSONNEL: THE TOTAL OF THE DECLARED NUMBERS; A COMBINATION OF THE DECLARED AND VERIFIED PERSONNEL; AND A COMBINATION OF THE VERIFIED PLUS PROJECTIONS ON THE UNCOUNTED SITES BASED ON APPLYING THE AVERAGE PERCENT OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DECLARED AND VERIFIED SITES. IT APPEARS THAT THE SECOND TOTAL, BASED ON A COMBINATION OF DECLARED AND VERIFIED COUNTS, IS REPORTED TO THE PARTIES. THE THIRD, COMBINING THE VERIFIED PLUS PROJECTIONS, IS THE UN'S OWN ESTIMATE.

9. WILL WITHHOLD FURTHER ACTION PENDING YOUR COMMENTS. HUNT

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